allowing a subscriber to define in his subscriber information that his incoming calls are to be forwarded to another subscriber; and

indicating the forwarding of a call and optionally a caller's identity in [the] a call establishment signaling;

characterized in that the method further comprises the steps of:

storing a group of caller identities in the subscriber information for defining a group of allowed caller identities, said allowed caller identities being either those included in or excluded from the group,

determining whether the caller identity of an incoming forwarded call belongs to the allowed identities by comparing the caller identity with said group of caller identities, in response to receiving the call establishment signaling in the network element,

continuing to establish [establishing] the incoming forwarded call if the caller identity belongs to the allowed identities, and

rejecting the incoming forwarded call if the caller identity does not belong to the allowed identities.

2. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which the subscriber defines [himself] the group of caller identities.

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [or 2] in a system, using [in which] a call forwarding counter [is used] in the call establishment signaling, in response to receiving call establishment signaling requesting establishment of a call from a calling subscriber to a first subscriber and determining that the first subscriber has forwarded [his] said first subscriber's calls to a second subscriber, the call is forwarded to the second subscriber, and the value of the call forwarding counter is incremented,

[characterized in that to determine] determining whether the call has been forwarded, the value of the call forwarding counter indicated in the call establishment signaling is compared to predefined value, and if the value of the call forwarding counter exceeds the predefined value, the call is determined to be a forwarded one.

4. (Amended) A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that [the] callers, whose calls are to be rejected, are defined by the group of caller identities.

5. (Amended) A method according to [any of the claims 1 to 4] claim 1, characterized by defining [by] the group of caller identities by [the] callers whose calls are to be accepted, and rejecting [the] calls whose caller identity does not belong to said group.

6. (Amended) A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized by accepting calls from an unknown caller number.

7. (Amended) A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1 in a system further comprising [further] an intelligent network capable of storing subscriber information, characterized in that in the network element, the event of receiving a forwarded incoming call to a subscriber having determined [his] said subscriber's forwarded incoming calls to be rejected is defined to be a trigger for sending a query to the intelligent network, and in response to having received the request to establish a call to a subscriber and having determined that the call has been forwarded and the subscriber has determined [his] said forwarded incoming calls to be rejected, a query having the calling [party] party's number as a parameter is sent to the intelligent network, and

in the intelligent network, [the] a set of allowed calling numbers in the subscriber information is stored and in response to having received [the] said query sent by the network element, the set of allowed calling numbers is retrieved from the subscriber information, the calling party number is compared to the set, and the network element is instructed to continue [the] a call establishment procedure if the calling party number belongs to the set of allowed calling numbers and to reject the incoming call if the calling number does not belong to the set.

8. (Amended) A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1 in a fixed network comprising a local exchange the subscriber is connected to, characterized in that the network element is a local exchange and the subscriber information is stored in a database the local exchange is connected to.

9. (Amended) A method according to [any of the claims 1 to 8] claim 1, wherein the method is executed in a mobile telecommunication system comprising

    a mobile services switching center (MSC) serving the subscriber, and a visitor location register (VLR) connected to the mobile services switching center (MSC),

    characterized in that the subscriber information is stored in the visitor location register (VLR) and the network element is the mobile services switching center (MSC).

10. (Amended) A method according to [any of the claims 1 to 8] claim 1, wherein the method is executed in a mobile telecommunication system comprising:

    a home location register (HLR(C); HLR-C; MHLR) storing the subscriber information of a subscriber, and

    a gateway mobile services switching center (GMSC-C) via which [the] an incoming calls of the subscriber are routed,

    characterized in that the subscriber information is stored in the home location register (HLR) and the network element is the gateway mobile services switching center (GMSC-C).

11. (Amended) A method according to [any of the claims 1 to 8] claim 1, characterized in that to determine whether a [the] call has been forwarded, the presence of [the] a forwarding number indicating the identity of the party having forwarded is studied, and if the forwarding number is present, the call is determined to be [a] forwarded [one].

12. (Amended) A telecommunication system comprising:

    exchanges[,] :

    subscribers[,] :

    means (75,77) for storing subscriber information including information about the service definitions of subscriber[,] :

    means (LE(A), LE(B), LE(C)) for establishing calls to a subscriber via an exchange (GMSC-C) having access to the subscriber information of the subscriber[,] :

    means (73) for allowing a subscriber to define in his subscriber information that his incoming calls are to be forwarded to another subscriber[,] and

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means for indicating (14) in the call establishment signaling the forwarding of a call, and optionally a caller identity, characterized in that the system further comprises:

storing means (75,77) for storing a group of caller identities in the subscriber information for defining a group of allowed caller identities, said allowed caller identities being either those included in or excluded from the group[,] ;

determining means (76) for determining whether the caller identity of an incoming forwarded call belongs to the allowed identities by comparing the caller identity with said group of caller identities, in response to receiving the call establishment signaling in the network element[,] ;

continuing means (78) for continuing establishing the incoming forwarded call if the caller identity belongs to the allowed identities[,] ; and

rejecting means (79) for rejecting the incoming forwarded call if the caller identity does not belong to the allowed identities.

13. (Amended) A telecommunication system according to claim [13] 12, characterized in that the determining means (76) is arranged to verify the forwarding of a call using a call forwarding counter.

14. (Amended) A telecommunication system according to claim 13 [or 14], characterized in that the system further has a configuration means (73) for configuring the subscriber information stored in the storing means (75,77).

15. (Amended) A network element for a telecommunication system having:

exchanges[,] ;

subscribers[,] ;

means (75,77) for storing subscriber information including information about the service definitions of a subscriber[,] ;

means (LE(A), LE(B), LE(C)) for establishing calls to a subscriber via an exchange (GMSC-C) having access to the subscriber information of the subscriber[,] ;

means (73) for allowing a subscriber to define in his subscriber information that his incoming calls are to be forwarded to another subscriber[,] ; and

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means for indicating (14) in the call establishment signaling the forwarding of a call, and optionally a caller identity, characterized in the that the network element comprises:

storing means (75,77) for storing a group of caller identities in the subscriber information for defining a group of allowed caller identities, said allowed caller identities being either those included in or excluded from the group[,] ;

determining means (76) for determining whether the caller identity of an incoming forwarded call belongs to the allowed identities by comparing the caller identity with said group of caller identities, in response to receiving the call establishment signaling in the network element[,] ;

continuing means (78) for continuing establishing the incoming forwarded call if the caller identity belongs to the allowed identities[,] ; and

rejecting means (79) for rejecting the incoming forwarded call if the caller identity does not belong to the allowed identities.

16. (Amended) A network element according to claim [16] 15, characterized in that a call forwarding counter is used for verifying the forwarding of call.

17. (Amended) A home location register for a mobile telecommunication system comprising:

exchanges[,] ;

subscribers[,] ;

means (75,77) for storing subscriber information including information about the service definitions of a subscriber[,] ;

means (LE(A), LE(B), LE(C)) for establishing calls to a subscriber via an exchange (GMSC-C) having access to the subscriber information of the subscriber[,] ;

means (73) for allowing a subscriber to define in his subscriber information that his incoming calls are to be forwarded to another subscriber[,] ; and

means for indicating (14) in the call establishment signaling the forwarding of a call, and optionally a caller identity, characterized in that the home location register comprises:

storing means (75,77) for storing a group of caller identities in the subscriber information for defining a group of allowed caller identities, said allowed caller identities being either those included in or excluded from the group[,] ;